

Amendments to the Specification

Kindly amend the specification as follows. In compliance with the Revised Amendment Format published in the Official Gazette on February 25, 2003, the changes in the amended specification are shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) and underlining (for added matter).

Page 11, lines 15-23, are amended as follows:

B1
There are two aspects in considering the membership of a node to a particular cluster. One aspect is related to the static configuration of the cluster. This aspect is referred to as the node definition (see FIG. 3). If a node is defined to the cluster 300, then the other nodes in the cluster are cognizant of this node. A node is defined to the cluster after a successful node definition operation (further described below). Conversely, a node is undefined to the cluster 302, after a node deletion operation.

Page 11, lines 24-27 through page 12, lines 1-9, are amended as follows:

B2
The static aspect of the node is different than its dynamic (or run-time) attribute, called cluster membership. The cluster membership refers to the fact that a node is considered to be a member of the cluster when it is defined and operational (i.e., online 304). The term operational here alludes to the fact that the node is perceived by the other members of the cluster as a functional node; that is, a node which is capable of performing basic functions which are termed liveness tasks. As one example, a node performs a set of liveness tasks continuously, and reports to the other nodes on its ability to perform such tasks by sending to the other members of the cluster heartbeat messages at regular intervals.

Page 59, lines 7-13, are amended as follows:

B3
Subsequent to obtaining the list of node addresses, the client looks up each node address in the node address definition data structure, stored in the global cluster configuration. For each address, the client performs a logical AND operation 2300 (FIG. 23) of the node address 2302

B3+ and subnetwork mask 2304 (~~see FIG. 23~~) to obtain a resulting subnetwork id 2306 for each address, STEP 2202 (FIG. 22).

Page 59, lines 14-17, are amended as follows:

B4 Thereafter, the client retrieves the subnetwork object for each of the addresses, STEP 2204, and for each subnetwork object, the client retrieves the network name 2308 (FIG. 23), which is associated with the subnetwork, STEP 2206.

Page 59, Lines 18-24, are amended as follows:

B5 Subsequently, the client retrieves each network to which the service addresses are mapped, STEP 2208. It then reads the service priority numbers 2310 (FIG. 23) from the service routing table 2312, which is stored in each network object, STEP 2210. The client then orders the list of node addresses, according to the priorities, which were set by the system administrator in the network objects, STEP 2212.